

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/444,869	ICHIKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cheukfan Lee	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed November 9, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3, 4, 6, 8-14, and 16-19, now renumbered 7, 1-6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 12, and 19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 November 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

1. All pending claims 3, 4, 6, 8-14, and 16-19 are allowed. Claim 19 is newly added. Claims 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 18 are independent.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 4 was indicated allowed in the previous Office Action dated July 23, 2004. The reason for allowance was given in that Office Action and is repeated below.

Independent claim 4 and its dependent claim 6 are allowed because the closest prior art, Hiramatsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,974,068), does not disclose switching the emission mode by changing an internal discharge state of the lamp (1) as claimed but by selectively inserting an IR filter in the optical path.

Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 8 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Independent claim 9 was indicated allowed in that previous Office action.

The reason for allowance for claims 8 and 9 also given in the previous Office Action is repeated below.

Independent claims 8 and 9 and dependent claim 10 are allowable because, although the closest prior art, Taguchi (Japanese Patent No. 07-272672, English translation sent to Applicant before), teaches producing different discharges at electrode pairs by adjusting the voltage or current to the electrode pairs, nowhere in Taguchi suggests that the different discharges produced correspond to two different emission

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modes (first and second modes claimed), one of which uses IR, and the other of which uses visible light.

Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 11 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter. The reason for allowance given in the previous Office Action is repeated below.

Independent claim 11 and its dependent claim 3 are allowable because none of the prior art of record teaches calculating a first read result and a second read result and generating a first corrected read result and a second corrected read result relating to the visible light and the invisible light, respectively.

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 12 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter. The reason for allowance given in the previous Office Action is repeated below.

Independent claim 12 and its newly submitted dependent claim 19 are allowable because none of the prior art of record teaches a reading unit carriage that moves in two opposite directions in reading in the first mode that uses visible light and in reading in the second mode that uses invisible light, respectively.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to overcome the art rejection. Specifically, claim 13 has been amended to recite "switching an emission mode of a single light source capable of irradiating a visible light and an invisible light in

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accordance with a reading mode selected from a visible image reading mode and an invisible image reading mode by adjusting a current applied to the light source". This feature is not taught by the prior art of record. The closest prior art Hiramatsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,974,068) switching the emission mode of the light source from one mode to another by inserting the appropriate filter, i.e., IR filter or R, G and B filters.

Independent claim 14 was indicated allowed in the previous Office Action. The reason for allowance given in that Action is repeated below.

Claim 14 is allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art, including Taguchi (Japanese Patent No. 07-272672), does not teach supplying the lamp with power so as to generate two discharges synchronously with each other, one discharge being between the external electrodes of the lamp, and the other being between the internal electrodes, in combination with other limitations of claim 14.

Claim 18 and its dependent claims 16 and 17 were indicated allowed in the previous Office Action. The reason for allowance given in that previous Action is repeated below.

Claims 18, 16 and 17 are allowable over the prior art of record because, though the closest prior art, Taguchi (Japanese Patent No. 07-272672) discloses generating different discharges from different pairs of electrodes, i.e., the external pair and the internal pair, Taguchi does not teach generating infrared (IR) light more in a discharge

between one of these pairs of electrodes than a discharge between the other pair of electrodes as claimed in claim 18.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (703) 305-4867. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
February 15, 2005



Cheukfan Lee